

Press Release III; Euroarmasmx.org on tour: New Hampshire-Washington (May 2017)

Berlin, Germany, May 11th 2017

Dr. Carlos A. Pérez Ricart, co-founder of Euroarmasmx.org and board member of the NGO México vía Berlín e. V. will join John Lindsay-Poland of the American Friends Service Committee and María Herrero Magdaleno on a tour in the United States from May 21st to May 27th, 2017. The tour, which will encompass a series of talks as well as meetings with advocacy groups and members of congress, is a joint effort to stop military transfers which contribute to human rights violations in Mexico.

This tour is the second one of this nature. During the previous one, which took place in December 2016, John Lindsay-Poland, Paulina Arriaga (Desarma Mexico) and Romualdo Hernández (uncle of a man killed with an AR-15 assault weapon in Acapulco) participated in the National Vigil to Support all Gun Violence Victims organized by the Newtown Action Alliance and in a number of meetings with advocacy groups and Congressional officers in Washington D.C.

As during the first tour, the objective is to make the correlation between violence and legally or illegally exported weapons from the U.S. visible. Pérez Ricart, Lindsay-Poland and Herrero Magdaleno will participate in numerous meetings, congressional briefings conferences, and open discussions, making a case for ending all arms sales to the Mexican military and police. They will meet with members of the gun violence prevention movement, human rights activists, and Senate and House Representatives (the final schedule will be announced shortly).

About the speakers:

John Lindsay-Poland is the Wage Peace Coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee's office in San Francisco, and has written extensively on the U.S. legal and illegal weapons trade to Mexico, U.S. policy in Latin America, and human rights violations in the drug war. He co-directed the 2017 documentary "Where the Guns Go: U.S. Policy and Human Rights in Mexico", and edited a report by the same title.

Dr. Carlos A. Pérez Ricart is investigating the legal trade of small arms between Germany, the U.S. and Mexico, elaborating on the techniques which allow German arms companies to avoid national arms controls in order to sell their weaponry all around the world. As his research has shown, many of the weapons produced by German companies (or with German technology) have been sold to Mexico in the last years. Military transfers of this kind have contributed to the drug war and human rights violations perpetrated by Mexican state actors. By establishing this link, Pérez Ricart's research demonstrates the complicity of hegemonic powers in the humanitarian crisis in Mexico.

María Herrero Magdaleno from Pajacuarán, Michoacán in Mexico, is the mother of eight children, including four sons who were forcibly disappeared by police agents in 2008 and 2010. She and her remaining family members have searched for her sons and appealed to every government agency, without results. She began to participate in the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity in 2011, including participation in caravans of victims and for human rights in Mexico and the United States.

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